

HOUSE RESOLUTION 142

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Edgar F. "Eddie" Harris, Jr., of Lebanon.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Edgar F. "Eddie" Harris, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Harris was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, he served with acumen and alacrity as Executive Director with the Wilson County Water and Wastewater Authority, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, under his able leadership, the Water Authority grew more than twenty times the size it was when he came on board in 1987; he oversaw major water line extensions, which brought clean and safe public water to citizens in most of the eastern section of Wilson county, and he was most proud of the new building on Maddux Simpson Parkway; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris not only supervised employees, he also got down in the ditch and took emergency calls; it was not uncommon for this dedicated professional to get a call in the middle of the night in Statesville and then meet with the bond underwriters and lawyers at nine o'clock in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Harris was interested in learning how to provide sewer services to the county and soon led the way in Tennessee in using the newest technology available in decentralized wastewater treatment; as a result, the number of septic tank applications has dropped drastically in Wilson County; and

WHEREAS, those closest to Eddie Harris knew him to be a caring person, a dedicated public servant, and a progressive leader who understood the needs of the citizens of Wilson county; and

WHEREAS, prior to his service with the Water Authority, Mr. Harris served with great probity as a Wilson County commissioner for eighteen years, at a time when the county was being transformed from a rural farming community into a suburban community; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Harris, a farmer who represented the large rural district containing Norene, became a leader in the transformation of the county to meet the needs of new citizens moving into subdivisions, believing that the job of government was to make life better for all; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris served on the Wilson County Road Commission to improve roads and bridges all over his beloved county, especially in the rural areas, on the Agricultural Center Management Committee, and the DeKalb Telephone Co-Op; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Harris was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Edgar Folk, Sr., and Callie Mae Gentry Harris; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Harris enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Lynn Detlefsen Harris, and was the proud father of Robert Harris, married to Kellie; Sandy Rigsby, married to Ernest; John Harris, married to Tammy; Michael Harris; Robert E. "Zeb" Douglas, married to Melissa; and Julie Douglas; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed by his brother, Leonard Douglas Harris; sisters, Mary Pritchett, married to Jerry, and Eloise Robertson; grandchildren, Kirk, Kayla, Kaleb, and Kallie Harris, Michael and Catina Rigsby, Makenzi and Alexia Douglas, Kaylee, Kile, and Kiera Fudge; great-grandchildren, Taylor, Madeline, and Makenzie Rigsby; and numerous nephews and nieces; and

WHEREAS, Eddie Harris leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Edgar F. "Eddie" Harris, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart

commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, as we pay tribute to his singular contributions to the betterment of Wilson County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Harris.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.